MESWG 3rd Teleconference
4-Feb 2013
10:00-11:00 UTC

Attendees: Fahd Batayneh, Marwan Radwan, Nabil Bukhalid, Sarmad Hussain, Manal Ismail, Christine Arida, Charles Shaban, Iftikhar Shah, Ali Almeshal, Rafik Dammak, Amr Elsadr.

Summary of discussions:
- Noted the difference between specific 'objectives' and general 'goals'; 'objectives' should be achievable;
- ICANN has a wider role to play than in domain names and ccTLDs; the RIR is one example, and RIRs do much more than IP addresses; ICANN will not create an RIR, the initiative has to come from the community; ITU WCIT is a wake up call for ICANN and for the region; ICANN's mandate cannot expand to cover e-content; in some countries, awareness and outreach about ICANN should be a priority;
- Need to spend more time on identifying the problems / challenges, before talking about goals / objectives; counter proposal is that each one of the WG members should do the analysis and come up with list of goals that would address certain problems / challenges; challenges must be related to ICANN not to the general Internet; for now let's agree on the three 'strategic goals' identified, move on and look into the specific objectives, and leave the door open to go back and adjust goals if necessary;
- Specific questions asked about the involvement of the League of Arab States (LAS) in ICANN and and in the development of the strategy; clarification made that LAS was invited to join MESWG but they never replied; they have an observer status with ICANN GAC but do not participate actively; they used to have working groups on DNS related issues including IDNs, and .arab, and used to invite the representative of ICANN in the region to give updates; it's important to seek their feedback on this process; also noted that with the .arab application LAS may eventually become part of GNSO, another reason to try to involve them;
- Objectives as they stand right now in the draft document seem to be

generic and open ended (i.e. Promote deployment of IPv6); they need to be more specific; projects can then be identified based on what we want to achieve;

- Objectives could be identified, then grouped into 'strategic focus areas'; or one may think of areas first then delve into the objectives; both approaches seem to work;
- Current structure of the document (table) seems to be challenging; need to re-structure it into sections and paragraphs;
- Proposal to try to get some draft document (listing goals, objectives, etc) posted in the next couple of weeks, for feedback and comments from the larger Middle East community to get people alerted prior to the Dubai meeting; concerns raised against the proposal due to lack of time;
- Proposal to have more frequent calls in the lead up to the Dubai meeting;

Next steps and action items:
- All members to provide input regarding 'strategic goals' and specific 'objectives';
- Amr Elsadr to re-structure the draft document and circulate it to the list;
- Baher to suggest certain milestones / deliverable for the Dubai meeting;
- Next call to take place on Monday 11-Feb 10:00:11:00 UTC.